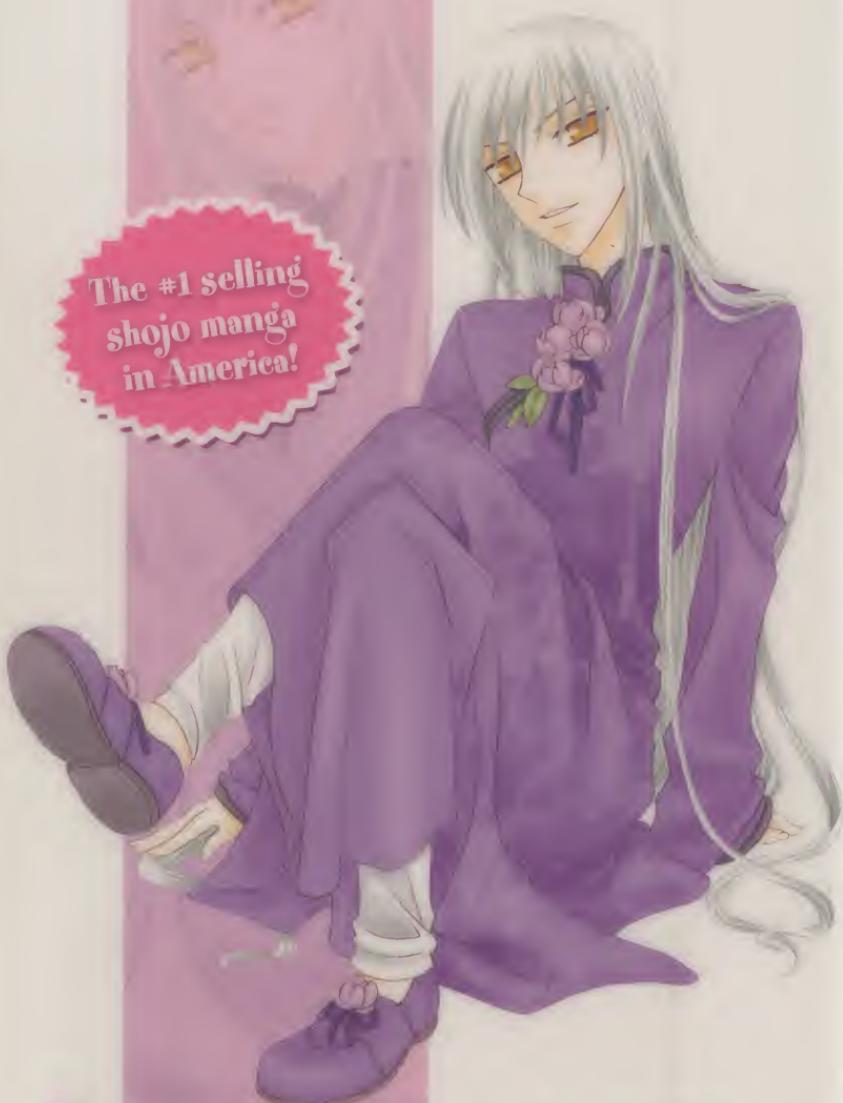


Fruits Basket™

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



9

Natsuki Takaya

© TUKAYA/HOP

Fruits Basket

Volume 9



Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket

TM

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STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!





Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters



Mabudachi Trio

Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohma's. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.

Tohru's Best Friends



Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks.
Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black."
Then you'd better watch out.



Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



Fruits Basket Characters

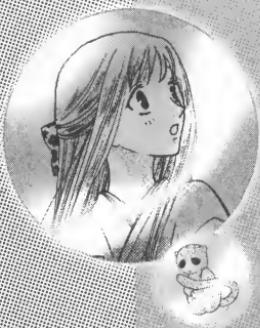
Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



Risu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.



Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Fruits Basket

TM

Chapter 49





Filler
sketch

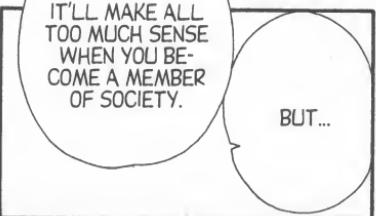


His identity will become clear in Chapter 49. Read on...



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 1

The title keeps getting shorter and shorter. (Pretty soon there won't be any title left at all.) Finally members of the student council (two of them) make an appearance. There won't be any more of them for a while, though.





I THOUGHT
I TOLD YOU,
STOP CALLING
ME STUPID!!

BUT
I SUPPOSE
STUPID IS
AS STUPID
DOES.

AH, Y--

YOU
TWO!!

WHY,
YOU!!

See?
HE'S NOT
DEAD.

IF YOU'RE GONNA
COME AT ME, DO IT
FROM THE FRONT,
YOU COWARD!!

IF YOU
WEREN'T
SO STUPID,
MAYBE
YOU COULD
SENSE ME
COMING.

YOU STOP
SWINGING
THAT THING
AROUND!!

Steaming hot

PLEASE,
YOU HAVE
TO STOP
FIGHTING!!

Aahh?!





My
God,-
man,
you're
dense
!!

YOU'RE AS
DENSE AS AN
OGRE! DENSE AS
LEAD! IF A
TACK IS SHARP,
YOU'RE THE THING
FARTHEST
FROM IT!

A MAN LIKE YOU HAS
NO RIGHT TO HAVE
SUMMER! PACK YOUR
BAGS AND LEAVE THIS
PLACE AT ONCE!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

THE FACT
THAT YOU STILL
DON'T UNDER-
STAND AFTER
I'VE MADE IT SO
CRYSTAL CLEAR
IS PROOF THAT
YOU'RE AN
IDIOT OF THE
HIGHEST ORDER!

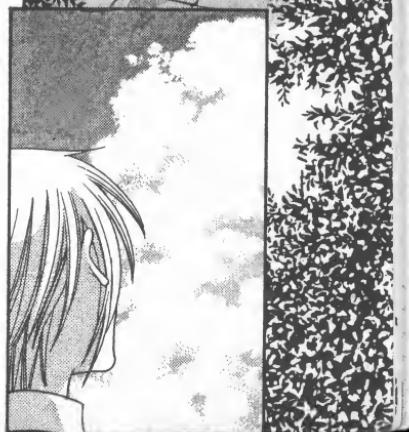
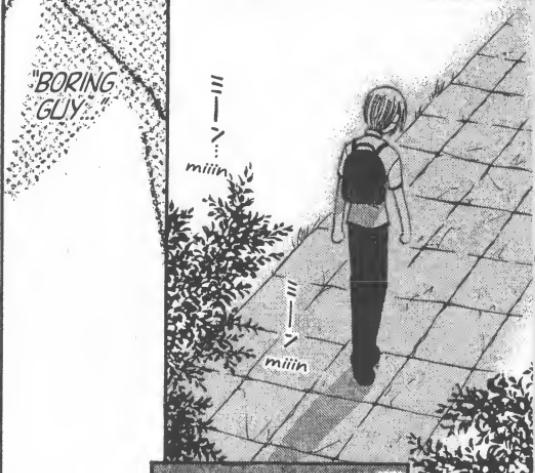
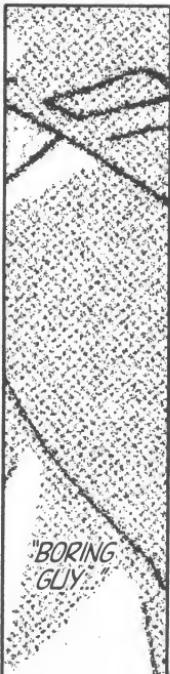
Wh-
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?!

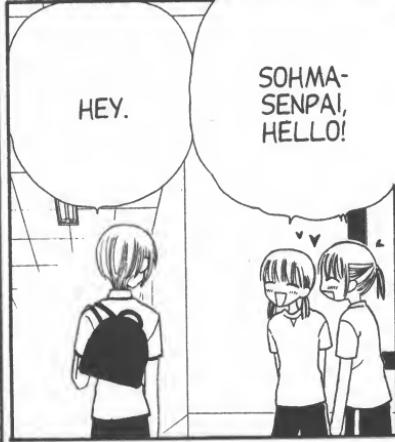
AT LEAST
I GET THAT
I'M REALLY
BEING MADE
FUN OF!

TOHRU-KUN,
IT'S NO USE!
KYO-KUN IS
WASTED
ON YOU.

You
mustn't
get near
him!
You
sonuvab...
k

UNLIKE ME,
HE SHOWS
NO PROMISE
 WHATSOEVER!











I'M FINE.



Fruits Basket 9
Part 1

Hajimemashite and konnichiwa!
Takaya reporting for duty, here to present Furuba volume 9!
This makes 21 volumes of manga that I've produced to date. (It doesn't feel so special anymore.)
Volume 9 features "the King." Yup! It's Ayame.
And now the Mabudachi Trio have all had their moment in the spotlight. Mabudachi fans, please line up volumes 4, 7, and 9.
I guess no one really does that... Anyway, please enjoy volume 9.







PEOPLE CALL
ME DIFFERENT
THINGS, LIKE
MANABE OR
MANABE-KUN
OR NABE-KUN
OR KAKERU OR
"HEY YOU."

KAKERU
MANABE!!



AH!!
EH?!

I'M KAKERU!!
IT'S WRITTEN,
"THE TRUE POT
FLIES."*

"He's explaining how to spell his name in kanji: His surname is "ma" (true) "nabe" (pot), and his given name is "kakeru" (to fly)."



WELL,
CALL BY ME
WHATEVER
SUITS YOU!



I WOULD
RECOMMEND
"SHOU"
MYSELF.

No one's called
me that yet!

* "Shou" is another way to pronounce the kanji character that makes up his name.



OH! OH
YEAH!!



THE GIRL
OVER THERE
IS A FIRST
YEAR. HER
NAME'S MACHI
KURAGI!! SO...

BY THE
WAY, I'M
IN CLASS
2-A!

UM...

Aah!

NO WORRIES,
I KNOW YOU
EVEN WITHOUT
AN INTRODUC-
TION! YOU'RE
YUKI SOHMA!





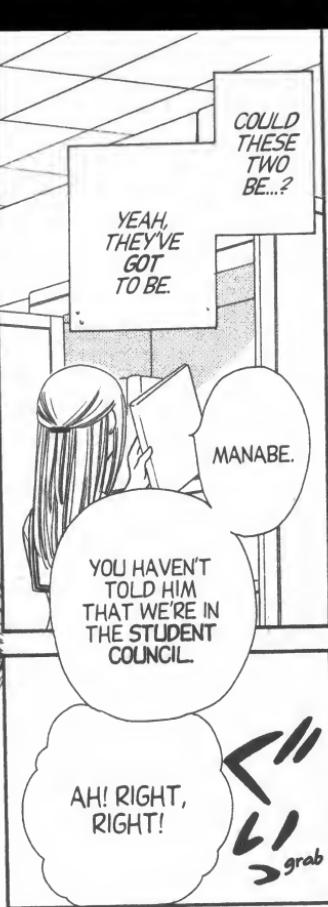
I'M THE VICE
PRESIDENT!

COULD
THESE
TWO
BE...?

YEAH,
THEY'VE
GOT
TO BE.

AND SHE
HAS BEEN
OFFICIALLY
APPOINTED
TREASURER!

SO WE'RE THE
ONES WHO'LL
BE WORKING FOR
YOU AS SOON AS
YOU'RE SWORN
IN AS THE NEW
STUDENT BODY
PRESIDENT!



MANABE.

YOU HAVEN'T
TOLD HIM
THAT WE'RE IN
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL.

AH! RIGHT,
RIGHT!



NOW, THERE'S
JUST ONE
QUESTION I'VE
BEEN DYING TO
ASK YOU!



IS THIS
GOING TO BE
OKAY...?!



THIS MANNER
THAT CAUSES
EVERY FIBER
OF MY BEING TO
SCREAM OUT IN
REJECTION...



Ha!

AGH! HE'S
JUST LIKE
HIM!!

snore

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

I PRESUME
YOU'VE
FINISHED THE
INTRODUCTIONS?!

snore

OH!!

Salut!

WHAT
ARE YOUR
IMPRESSIONS,
YUKI-KUN?!

YOU, TOO,
MANABE-KUN,
KURAGI-KUN!!

MY, MY, YOU
SEEM TO BE DOING
EXCEEDINGLY
WELL, YUKI-KUN!
MY APOLOGIES FOR
BEING LATE!

REST ASSURED
THAT I WILL CONTINUE
TO SEARCH FOR ONLY
PEOPLE OF GREAT
TALENT AND CHARACTER
TO FILL THE TWO
REMAINING OFFICES.

I SEE THAT ALL
THE TIME I PUT
INTO SELECTING
JUST THE RIGHT
TEAM PAID OFF!

whisper
SO ALL
OF THAT
SELECTING
AND
RESELECTING
...?

Ohh!

YOU'RE SO
IMRESSED,
YOU'RE
SPEECHLESS?!



I LOOK
FORWARD
TO IT!

YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW HAPPY I AM
TO HEAR THAT!
I, MAKOTO TAKEI,
WOULD THROW
AWAY MY LIFE IN
THE NAME OF
YUKI-KUN!



I HAVE
TO GO
HOME AND
CHANGE. I'M
LATE FOR
WORK!

OH,
CRAP!

MANABE-KUN!
ONCE YOU'VE BEEN
SWORN IN AS VICE
PRESIDENT, YOU
WILL HAVE TO CUT
DOWN ON PART-TIME
WORK! YOUR DUTY
TO THE SCHOOL
AND YUKI-KUN MUST
COME FIRST.

I KNOW, I
KNOW! BUT
UNTIL THEN...

LOOK AT
THE TIME!
THIS IS BAD--
I'M GONNA
BE LATE!

MANABE-KUN!
YOU WILL
PLEASE STOP
TREATING
YUKI-KUN SO
ROUGHLY!

EEHH?!

THE
HONORABLE
VICE PRESIDENT
IS RETURNING
HOME!

PLEASE
SEND HIM OFF
PROPERLY!

YEAH,
YEAH. LATER,
MACH!!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M SURPRISED YOU ACCEPTED A POSITION ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

I WAS DRAWN IN BY THE TERM "SCHOOL DEFENSE FORCE."

I'M BUSY WITH LOTS OF PART-TIME JOBS.

IT'S ROUGH, YOU KNOW?

AS THE PRESIDENT, YOU'RE THE LEADER, SO YOU'D HAVE TO BE RED, OF COURSE.

BUT YOU DON'T REALLY FIT THAT IMAGE.

IF YOU ASK ME...

THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE LIKE THE DEFENDERS OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE AT SCHOOL, RIGHT? SO, SCHOOL DEFENSE FORCE! I REALLY DIG THAT SENTA/* STUFF.

IN THAT CASE, I GET DIBS ON BLACK. IT'S COOL BECAUSE IT'S LIKE AN OUTLAW!

BUT, IF WE REALLY ARE A SENTA GROUP, SHOULDN'T WE GIVE EVERYONE THEIR OWN COLOR?

*Senta: costumed superheroes, like the Power Rangers or Kamen Rider.

YOU
REALLY
DO...

...LOOK
LIKE A
GIRL.

...I'D SAY YOU'RE
MORE PINK.

PAT

YUKI-CHAN.



THIS GUY...

HE'S MAKING
FUN OF ME!

shirk

flush



But...

DON'T LET
THAT AFFECT
YOUR OPINION
OF ME. LET'S
BE FRIENDS!

SORRY IF I
MADE YOU
MAD.

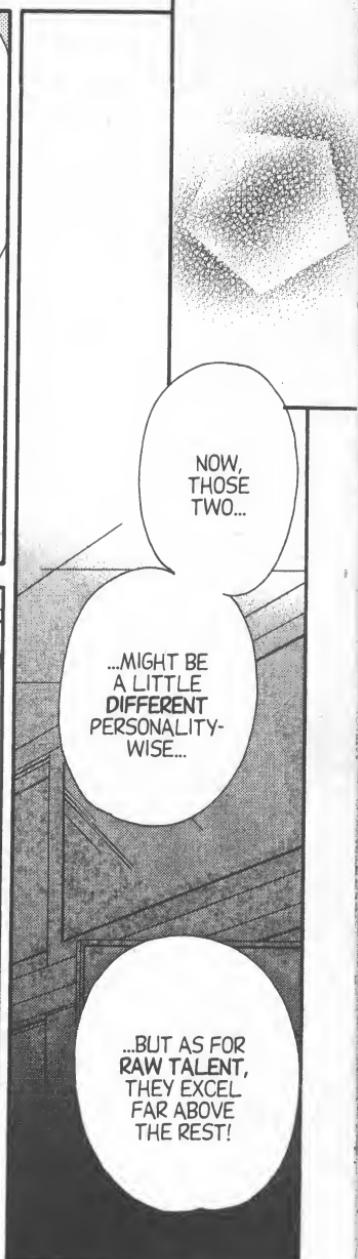
THANKS
FOR SEE-
ING ME
OFF.

NEXT
TIME, LET'S
TALK MORE,
'KAY?

I'M
BASICALLY
AN IDIOT...

...SO I DO
THAT A
LOT.

M-hm.





ANYWAY

...





OF COURSE
THERE WILL
BE SOME
CHALLENGES...

IT SOUNDS
LIKE YOU
HAVE SOME
FUN TIMES
IN STORE!

...OR SOMETHING.

...BUT IF YOU
SEE THEM THROUGH...

...I'M SURE
MANY FUN
ADVENTURES
ARE WAITING
FOR YOU.

AT LEAST,
THAT'S THE
FEELING I GET.



...TRY MY
BEST.

I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



...AND
SAVED...

...BY
TRIVIAL
WORDS.

Chapter 50





BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 2

We've arrived at Chapter 50! My feelings upon arriving at this milestone are... "Wow, I've drawn a lot."



I WANTED...

AH HA
HA IS
THIS FOR
REAL?!

I DON'T
KNOW
WHY...

IS THERE
REALLY
SOMEONE WHO
DOES THE
SAME THINGS
SHE DOES?!

Ah ha
hya hya!

Hee hee!

OH, I'M SORRY.
OH, THAT WAS
FUNNY. YOU
REALLY SHOULD
PUT ALL THAT
IN A BASKET.

BUT
YOU WERE
LAUGHING SO
HAPPILY...

Ah...

YEAH...

Oh, that was funny!

HERE. NOW
TRY NOT TO BE
SO ABSENT-
MINDED.

Ah hya
hya...

...TO WATCH
YOU FOREVER.

...AND IT
WAS SO
PLEASANT.



HE'S OUR
BODYGUARD-
SAN!

YEAH...
LONG
TIME...

LONG TIME
NO SEE,
SQUIRT!

OH,
MEGUMI!!

YOU KNOW,
YOU REALLY
DON'T ACT
LIKE A MIDDLE
SCHOOLER.

More like a
lecherous old
man.

THERE IS
THAT... AND
THEY TOLD ME
THAT IF I CAME,
I WOULD GET
TO SEE ARISA IN
A MINISKIRT...

IT LOOKS
GOOD ON
YOU.

I didn't
have time to
look...

I WANTED
TO TAKE ON
MORE PART-
TIME WORK
THIS YEAR,
TOO, BUT--

MONEY
DOESN'T
GROW ON
TREES, YOU
KNOW.

COFFEE
SHOP IN THE
AFTERNOON,
CONVENIENCE
STORE AT
NIGHT...

YOU'RE
ABSORBED IN
WORK, ARISA...

Don't be stupid!

OH... ARISA, YOU
WERE SAYING
YOU MET A MAN
LIKE TOHRU-KUN
AT WORK.

WHICH
JOB WAS
IT....?

HM? OH,
THAT. AT THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

DON'T YOU DARE
TRY TO TAKE ON
ANOTHER JOB!
YOU'D DIE FROM
EXHAUSTION!
THERE'S NO
FRICKIN' WAY!

YOU'VE ALREADY
GOT A FULL-TIME
JOB WORKING
IN THAT HUGE
HOUSE, TAKING
CARE OF THREE
HUGE MEN!!

N-no, they're
the ones
taking care
of me...

IT'S
LIKE HIS
CLUMSINESS
REMINDED
ME OF HER.

I'VE TOLD YOU
A THOUSAND
TIMES IT'S NOT
LIKE HE LOOKS
LIKE TOHRU.

My...

IS HE THAT
SCATTER-
BRAINED...?

Scatter-
brained...
Clumsiness...

ANYWAY,
I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM
SINCE THAT
NIGHT.

ARE
WE GOING
TO STAKE
OUT THE
STORE?

DON'T.

YOU'RE NOT
GETTING PAID
TO STAND
AROUND AND
CHAT!

YES,
SIR!

UOTANI!!

LET'S GO
OUT TO
DINNER,
THE FOUR
OF US...

HM?
YEAH.

UO-CHAN,
DO YOU
HAVE SOME
TIME THIS
EVENING?

munch
munch

munch

Sounds
great!

LET'S EAT
MONJA*!!

UOTANI!!!

clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap

Yay!

That was
good...

*monja-yaki: A pan-fried
pancake of mixed vegetables and
meat, similar to okonomiyaki,
only without the egg!

BUT...

...IF HE DID
SHOW UP...

...I WOULDN'T
MIND SEEING
HIM AGAIN.

Fruits Basket 9
Part 2:

So I bought a new tracing table. People kept telling me, "Buy a new one!" "That one's too small," "No manga artist has such a cheap tracing table these days," etc. I finally gave in. My old one was pretty cheap... I chose it and bought it when I was drawing the first chapter of Gen'e Musou, which I will never forget. I had no money, but I wanted to buy the best one I could.

To be continued...





WAIT!

(snap)

IT IS
HIM!

huff

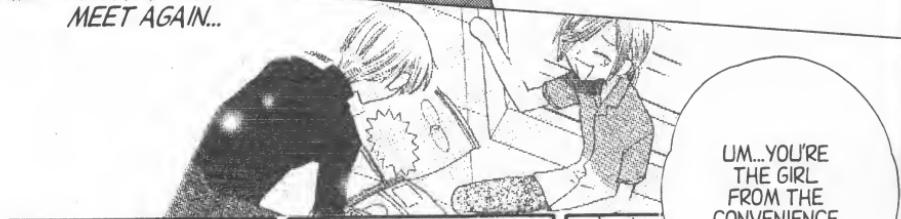
huff

....

huff



TO THINK WE'D
MEET AGAIN...



COULD IT BE...

...THAT
SHE'S BEEN
THINKING OF
ME AS MUCH
AS I'VE BEEN
THINKING
OF HER?

Heat's
getting
to me.

...SO, WITHOUT
THINKING,
I JUST TOOK
OFF IN
PURSUIT.

AH HA HA! I'M
NOT MAKING ANY
SENSE, AM I?!

grumble

CRAP. IF I GET
ANY HUNGRIER,
I'LL BE IN A
CRAZY BAD
MOOD.

I HAVEN'T
EATEN
LUNCH YET.

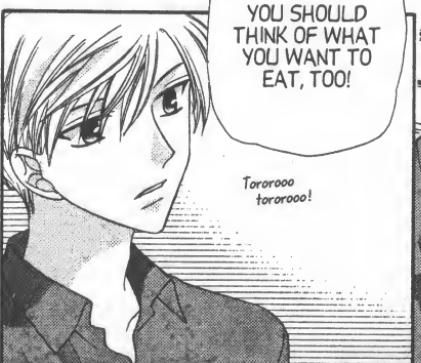
rumble
grumble

ARE YOU
HUNGRY?

MY
TREAT.

SINCE YOU'RE
HERE, WHY
DON'T WE EAT
TOGETHER?

NO WORRIES. IT
IS LUNCHTIME.
I HAVEN'T
EATEN EITHER.



*tororo soba: grated yam noodles

SO, WHAT
BRINGS YOU TO
THIS NECK OF
THE WOODS,
KURENO-SAN?

I'M UOTANI.
ARISA
UOTANI.

NOTHING,
REALLY. I
JUST KINDA
WANDERED INTO
THE AREA.

*For no particular
reason.*

HEY.

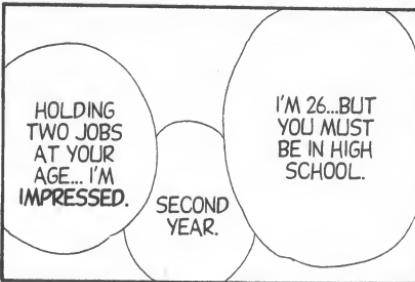
WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
ANYWAY?

SO I WAS
KILLING TIME
BY WALKING
AROUND.

...BUT I
DIDN'T HAVE
ANYTHING
TO DO.

MY NAME...?
KURENO.

Thank
you.



AS HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED,
I LIVE AND
I WORK.

I USUALLY
DON'T DO
POINTLESS
THINGS.

IT REALLY WAS
UNUSUAL THAT
I WENT TO THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE THAT
NIGHT.

BECUSE
IT'S A WASTE
OF MY TIME.

SO ON THE
OTHER HAND,
WHEN I GET
TIME OFF, LIKE
TODAY...

POINTLESS?

I HAVE
EVERYTHING
I WANT. I'M
CONTENT.

I'M
SURE...

I'M
HAPPY.

...LIVING
LIKE
THAT?

ARE YOU
HAPPY...

IN THAT CASE...

...YOU
SHOULD LOOK
HAPPIER WHEN
YOU SMILE.

...I'M MORE
CONTENT
THAN
ANYONE.

THAT
SMILE
OF HIS...

I FELT IT...

EH
...?

...AND
WHEN
I FIRST
SAW HIM.

...TODAY!

XIA





...I WAS
HAPPY!

BECUSE,
I THOUGHT,
MAYBE OUR
MEETING
MEANT
SOMETHING.

BECAUSE

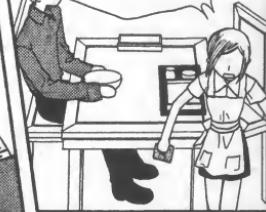


I DON'T KNOW
WHY, BUT IT
REALLY PISSES
ME OFF!

WELL, SORRY
FOR WASTING
YOUR TIME!

AND
SORRY FOR
MAKING YOU
WASTE YOUR
MONEY, BUYING
ME LUNCH!

THAT
PISSES
ME OFF!



THANKS! I'M
LEAVING!

....!



I WAS
HAPPY, TOO...

...THAT YOU
SPOKE TO ME.
REALLY.

I'M SORRY.

I SPOKE
WITHOUT
THINKING.

...WANTED
TO SEE
YOU, TOO.

EVER SINCE
THAT NIGHT.

I COULDN'T
GET YOU OUT
OF MY MIND
EITHER.

RUNNING
UNTIL
YOU'RE
COVERED IN
SWEAT...

JUST TO
TALK TO
ME...

I...







...HE JUST
SAID...

... "I LOVE YOU."

AND WHY DID HE
LEAVE WITHOUT A
WORD?! WHAT?! DID
I HAVE YAM BREATH,
OR SOMETHING?!

Yams
...?

...DO YOU
LIKE HIM,
TOO...?

I don't
know!

HE'S
MYSTERIOUS!
AND HE DOESN'T
ALWAYS MAKE
SENSE!

SO,
ARISA-
SAN...

...KNOWING THAT ONE OF MY FRIENDS MAY HAVE FOUND HER SPECIAL SOMEONE.

...IT FEELS A LITTLE BIT LONELY...

BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT...

I WONDER IF HE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE AGE DIFFERENCE...

IS NINE YEARS IS TOO BIG A DIFFERENCE...?

MY MOM AND DAD WERE EIGHT YEARS APART, BUT I HEAR THEY WERE VERY MUCH IN LOVE!

OF COURSE...

AS IF WE'LL LET HIM. WE'RE DEFINITELY CRASHING THEIR FIRST DATE, AREN'T WE, HANAJIMA?!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU'LL BE SOMEONE'S GIRLFRIEND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! THEN HE'LL DEFINITELY WANT TO KEEP YOU ALL TO HIMSELF!



I WONDER...

WILL I SEE
YOU AGAIN?

WELCOME
BACK,
KURENO.

AND
TOUCH

YOUR
LIPS

IF ONLY
I COULD
ALWAYS...

BE
NEAR
YOU!

IF ONLY
I COULD
WATCH
OVER YOU



...I WON'T
EVEN BE
ABLE TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

NO.
EVERY-
THING'S
FINE...

...AKITO.

I TRUST
YOU DIDN'T
CAUSE ANY
MISCHIEF
OUTSIDE?

BUT I'M
SURE...



Chapter 51

I feel so
grateful.

SHE SAYS,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!!

They can't see
it if you block it,
Ayame-san!

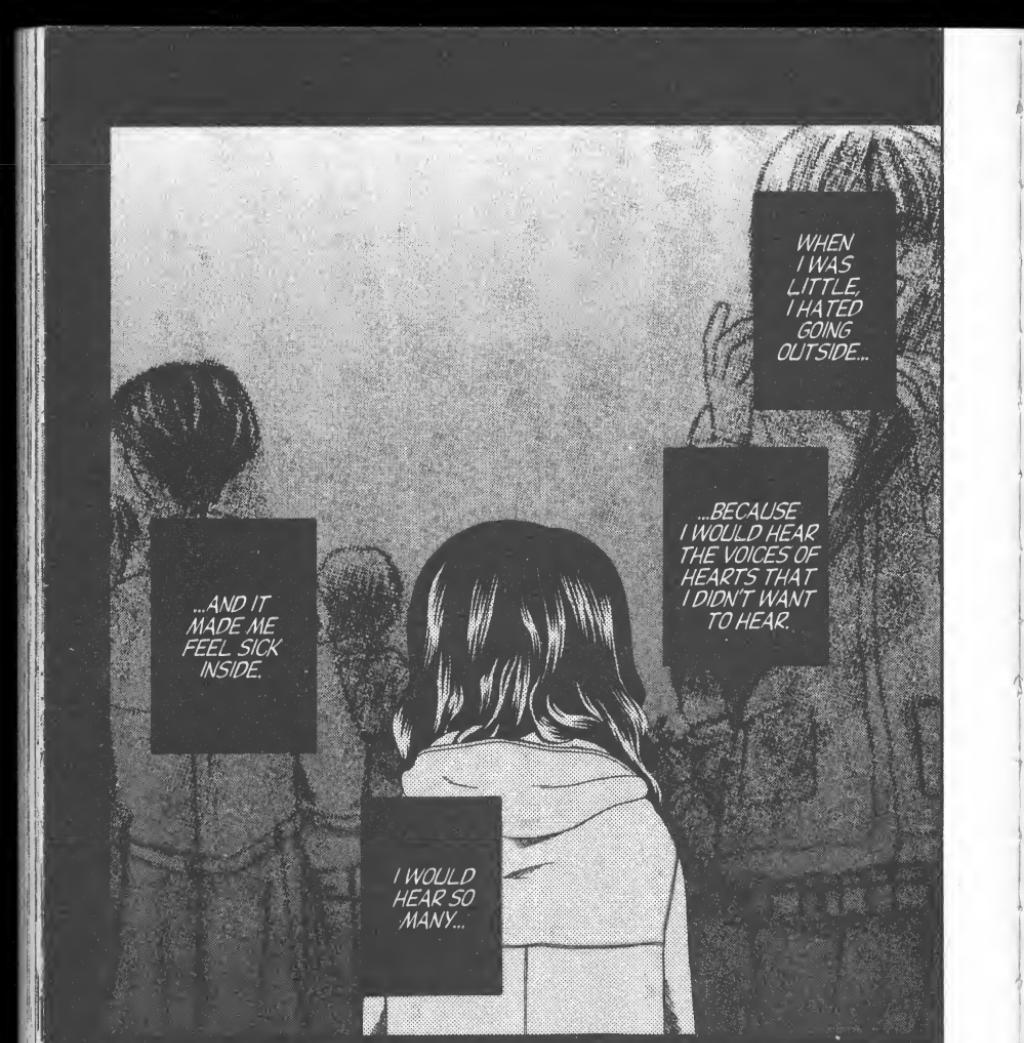
Harada-sama, Araki-sama, Kawaaii-sama, Mom, Dad and everyone who reads and supports this manga, thanks so much for your support!

And thanks for the Valentine's chocolate and presents!

And next it's Kisa's turn.

-Natsuki Takaya





WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE,
I HATED
GOING
OUTSIDE...

...AND IT
MADE ME
FEEL SICK
INSIDE.

...BECAUSE
I WOULD HEAR
THE VOICES OF
HEARTS THAT
I DIDN'T WANT
TO HEAR.

I WOULD
HEAR SO
MANY...

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

The reason middle-school Arisa doesn't have blonde hair in this chapter is that she went back to her original color. She's rehabilitating...





IT'S SO
STRANGE. SAKI
IS THE ONLY ONE
IN OUR FAMILY
WITH A POWER
LIKE THAT.

WE CAN'T
JUST TAKE
HER TO THE
HOSPITAL. IT
MIGHT ONLY
HURT SAKI-
CHAN MORE.



I'M WORRIED
ABOUT SAKI'S
FUTURE.

SHE'LL HAVE
TO SUFFER
BECAUSE OF A
SPECIAL GIFT
THAT OTHER
PEOPLE DON'T
HAVE.



IT'S A
POWER...

...THAT
OTHER
PEOPLE
WON'T
UNDERSTAND.



THE VOICES
ARE OVER-
WELMING.

SHE'S BEEN
THIS WAY
EVER SINCE
SHE WAS
BORN.



IT'S
FRUSTRATING
THAT WE CAN'T
EVEN DO
ANYTHING
TO EASE THE
PAIN.



A STRANGE POWER

WHY IS IT
THAT THE
VOICES
OF MY
FAMILY'S
AND OTHER
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS...

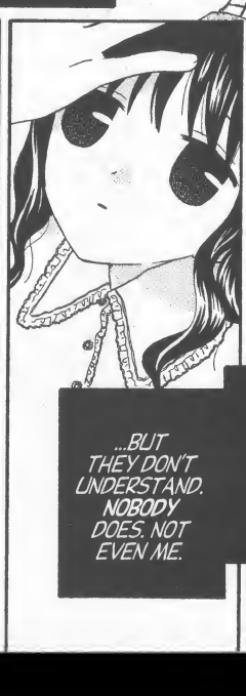
...COME INTO MY
HEAD UNCON-
TROLLABLY?



A POWER
I WAS BORN
WITH...

A STRANGE
POWER.

BUT THEY
DO THEIR
BEST.



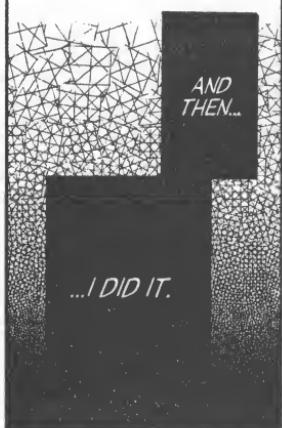
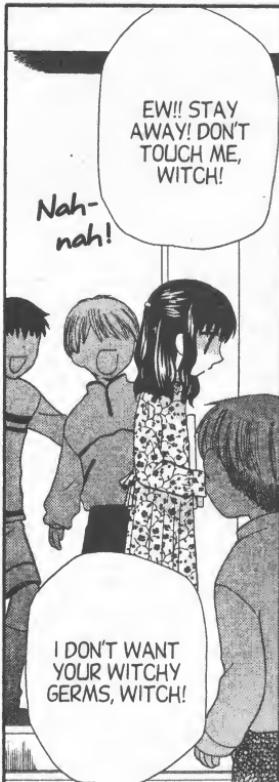
...BUT
THEY DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
NOBODY
DOES. NOT
EVEN ME.

MY PARENTS
TRY TO MAKE
ME FEEL
COMFORTABLE
WITH IT...



I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE THINKING
RIGHT NOW.
YOU'RE THINKING,
"DADDY SURE
LOOKS TIRED."





MY SISTER
TOLD ME THAT
WITCHES EAT
LIVE NEWTS!

EAT IT.
YOU'RE
A WITCH,
AREN'T YOU?

SOMETHING
TERRIBLE.

EE...

EAT IT!!

HEY,
WHAT
ARE
YOU...

HOLD
HER
DOWN!

PUT IT
IN HER
MOUTH!

IN HER
MOUTH!

EEEEEEEEE

C'MON!
DO IT!

I...WOULD
NEVER...

...EAT THI...

squish





I HEAR
HE FINALLY
REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS
THIS MORNING

BUT HIS MOTHER
WAS BY HIS SIDE
THE WHOLE TIME.
THEY SAID SHE
FAINTED FROM
STRAIN...

...AND NOW
SHE'S BEEN
HOSPITALIZED.

HAVE THEY
FOUND OUT
WHAT CAUSED
THE BOY TO
COLLAPSE?

NOT YET...

IT'S BECAUSE
I WANTED HIM
TO DIE...





I'M
SCARED...

...THOUGHT
THAT I HAD...
KILLED HIM...

I
REALLY
...

IF IT
HAPPENS
AGAIN...

...I MIGHT
KILL HIM
FOR REAL...

...FOR
ANYONE'S
DEATH EVER
AGAIN.

I DON'T
WANT TO
WISH...

Fruits Basket 9
Part 3:

Continued...

Yup. Over the years that table had absorbed my blood, sweat, and tears...I don't really like that phrase. Anyway, it was my beloved table that had worked hard with me for nearly eight years. You understand why it was so hard to let go? The new tracing table is enshrined on my desk, but I couldn't throw the old one away, so it's at my feet. Sometimes I kick it, though.



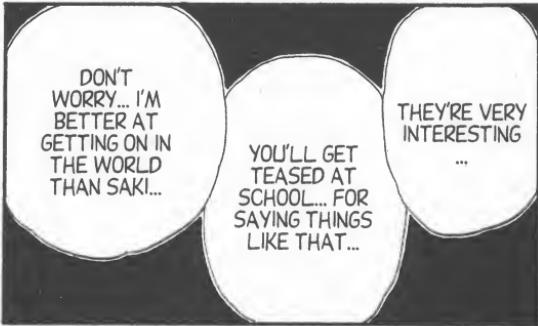


Fruits Basket 9
Part 4:

This is about dreams. Until now, none of the characters from my stories have appeared in my dreams, but I guess because I've been working on Furuba for so long, for the first time Yuki and Kyo appeared. There they were, just walking by minding their own business. I thought, "Why isn't Tohru in my dream?"

I was impressed to see them in three dimensions. No, it was a dream though. And never again! (laugh)





...BUT I SHOULD
RECEIVE SOME
FORM OF
PUNISHMENT...

DO YOU
THINK YOU
DESERVE TO BE
PUNISHED...?

FOR THE
SIN OF...

...WISHING SO
DEEPLY AND
WICKEDLY FOR
SOMEONE'S
DEATH.

...CAN'T
JUDGE ME...

THE
POLICE...

OF
COURSE
I DESERVE
IT...

SAKI...

IS THAT
ALL YOU
WANT OUT
OF LIFE?

...AS IF
PEOPLE
EXIST TO
PUNISH
YOU...?

DO YOU
PLAN TO
LIVE YOUR
WHOLE
LIFE...



IT
SEEMED
LIKE...

PLEASE...

...SUCH AN
ABSURD
PRAYER.

IF YOU'RE IN
A FAR OFF
COUNTRY,
THEN GET ON
A PLANE.

HURRY.

COME TO
SAKI...

...AS FAST
AS YOU
CAN.

...THAT
ONCE THERE,
WOULD NEVER
DISAPPEAR.

I THOUGHT
THAT SOME
PRAYERS
COULD
NEVER BE
ANSWERED...

GO HOME,
WITCH! WE
DON'T WANT
YOU AT
SCHOOL!

YEAH,
YOU'RE
CREEPY!
AND
STUPID!

...JUST
AS SOME
STAINS...



I MUSTN'T
THINK ABOUT
ANYTHING.

FOCUS ON
THE PAIN AND
EMPTY YOUR
MIND.

THIS
SUCKS.

C'MON,
HANAJIMA-
CHAN, GET
MAD!

NO, I DON'T
WANT ANYONE
TO DIE.

I DON'T
WANT TO
KILL THEM...

I CAN'T.
PLEASE, DON'T
HURT ANYONE.

NO!

DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
SCARED
OF HER?

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
DYING.

ME, TOO!
I DON'T
CARE IF
I DIE!

NOW, SINCE
EVERYONE'S
WILLING
TO DIE...

LET'S
TURN
UP THE
HEAT!

BUT
I HEARD
THAT IF
YOU'RE HIT
BY THEM,
YOU'LL
REALLY
DIE.



THANK GOODNESS

CRAP!

Where's our lookout?

SHE...EVEN
BURNED
HER ARM!

TEACHER!
HANAJIMA-SAN
WAS PLAYING
WITH MATCHES!

WE TRIED
TO STOP
HER, BUT...

WHAT ARE
YOU KIDS
DOING HERE?
SCHOOL'S
OVER!

EVERYONE...

...IS SAFE.

LET'S
MOVE.

slump





WITH
SUMMER
STILL FAR
OFF...

.../
CHANGED
SCHOOLS.





WHAT DON'T
YOU WANT ME
TO GIVE UP...

...FATHER...?

HERE!

DON'T
GIVE UP
YET.

Kya
ha
ha!

TODAY YOU
GET A DOUBLE
SERVING FOR
FREE...

...HANAJIMA-
SAN!

I WOULD BE SO
HAPPY IF YOU
WOULD LIKE
THEM TOO,
HANAJIMA-SA-

HONDA-
SAN!

I THINK
THE SCHOOL
LUNCHES HERE
ARE MOST
DELICIOUS.

I'M TOHRU
HONDA! IT'S SO
VERY NICE TO
MEET YOU!

BUT I'M
SURPRISED... TO
THINK SOMEONE
WOULD TALK TO
ME WITHOUT
BEING AFRAID...

HEY,
NEW KID!

YO!

A
ahh!
I-I'M
SORRY!

THERE'S A
LINE BACK
HERE, SO
TALK TO
HER LATER!

A
DITZ...?

AND
WHY SUCH
POLITE
LANGUAGE
...?





IN MY CASE, IT MIGHT BE TWO HUNDRED HURTS AND NO GOOD THINGS!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING GOOD COMES FROM ASSOCIATING WITH ME, EITHER...

...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF EATING WITH YOU...

I WASN'T JOKING, AND I DEFINITELY DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANYONE DEPRESSED...

Are you listening...?

YOU WOULD RECEIVE A HUNDRED HURTS AND NOT A SINGLE GOOD THING ...

TODAY YOU'VE CHANGED SCHOOLS, THE WEATHER'S GOOD, AND THERE'S SCHOOL LUNCH.

GIVE IT A REST. WHO CARES ABOUT THE DETAILS?

AND IT'S NOT THAT I WANT YOU TO SET A GOAL...

FROM NOW ON, I'LL DO MY BEST TO BE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO SPREADS GOODNESS TO ALL AROUND HER!

YES! YOU'RE RIGHT!

stand

YOU'D BE BETTER OFF NOT ASSOCIATING WITH ME...



**we get
that a lot!**

NOW SIT
DOWN AND
EAT WITH US
WEIRDOS!

ITADA-
KIMASU!
THANKS
FOR THE
FOOD.

YOU REALLY
ARE WEIRD...

FROM
THE
MOMENT
I FIRST
MET
YOU...

THE VOICES
I WOULD
SOMETIMES
HEAR...

...YOU TWO
REALLY
WERE
STRANGE.

...THAT
SEEMED TO
BE CRYING
SOFTLY.

YOU
SECRETLY
HELD
VOICES...

...WERE
NEVER JUST
PRETTY
VOICES.

wave
wave

WELL THEN,
SEE YOU
TOMORROW!

SEE YA!

WE'LL SEE
YOU AGAIN
TOMORROW,
RIGHT?!

THE PEOPLE
WERE DIFFERENT,
BUT MY CURSE
STILL HADN'T
GONE AWAY.

THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME
ANYONE
HAS SAID
THAT
TO ME...?

SEE YOU
TOMORROW
...?

OF COURSE. SHE
TRANSFERRED
HERE.

I WONDER IF
THEY'LL SAY
"GOOD MORNING" TO
ME TOMORROW...?

huff

WE HAVE P.E.
TODAY, RIGHT?
I HOPE WE GET
TO BE OUTSIDE!

GOOD
MORNING,
HANA-CHAN!

tap
tap
tap
...

huff



YEAH.

THE WEATHER
WILL BE NICE
TOMORROW,
TOO...

YES!

OOHH! THE
SUNSET IS
BRIGHT RED
AGAIN TODAY!

ME...
HAPPY.

SUCH
A KIND
COLOR...

I HEARD
THIS FROM
A FRIEND
OF MINE
WHO
GOES TO
YOUR OLD
SCHOOL.

WHEN
I REALIZED
THAT I HAD
ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
MY PLACE...

IT WAS
IN BETWEEN
TWO SEASONS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT!

...YOU TRIED TO KILL A BOY.

IS THAT TRUE?

HANAJIMA-SAN, THEY SAY THAT...

...WHEN YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

SHE ALSO SAID YOU USED TO BE A TOTAL DELINQUENT, SMOKING AND STUFF.

AND YOU BURNED THE ARM OF A GIRL WHO TRIED TO STOP YOU!

"TRIED TO KILL A BOY"

YOU WERE SO MUCH TROUBLE, THAT'S WHY THEY TRANSFERRED YOU.

"A BOY"

P-POISON WAVES, OR SOMETHING?

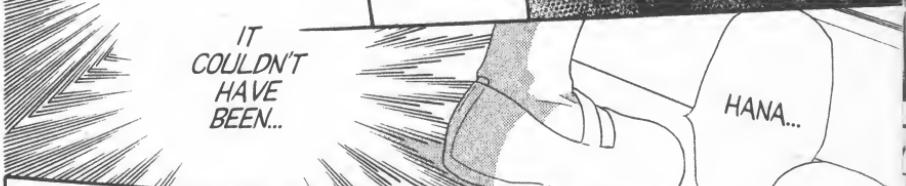
WITH SOME KIND OF... WHAT WAS IT?

PO...? EH?

I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF...

...BUT SHE SAID IT WAS REALLY SCARY!





I DON'T
WANT
TO HURT
ANYONE
ANYMORE.

WHY WAS
I EVEN
ALIVE?

ALL
I COULD
DO WAS
CAUSE
PEOPLE
PAIN...

A STAIN THAT
WOULDN'T
WASH AWAY.

I... I REALLY
DO HAVE A
POWER...

SO YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
AROUND ME
ANYMORE...

IT ALMOST
KILLED
SOMEONE...

SO, PLEASE...
JUST LEAVE
ME ALONE...





I LOVE
YOU...

...HANA-
CHAN.



DO YOU
WANT TO
LEAVE?

DON'T ASSUME
THAT THINGS
ARE A CERTAIN
WAY 'CUZ
THAT'S WHAT
PEOPLE
TELL YOU.



YOU
DECIDE.

I MIGHT
NEVER BE
FORGIVEN



THAT'S
ALL I WANT
TO KNOW.



B--

BUT I...

I...

I MIGHT
HURT
HER

IT WAS SO
BIZARRE...

WHEN
I LOOKED DOWN...

"IT'S WHAT
WE DO. IT'S
LOVE."

THAT
DAY...

...AS I WENT
HOME AS
I LOOKED UP
AT THE SKY,
AT THE
SETTING SUN...

...THERE
WASN'T JUST
ONE SHADOW
ANYMORE.

...IT SEEMED
SO LONELY
THAT IT WAS
TREMBLING.

FROM
THAT
MOMENT
ON...

...WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU...

I DO...

...I NEVER
WALKED
ALONE
AGAIN.

I WANT TO
BE WITH
YOU!



"I CAN'T
BELIEVE..."

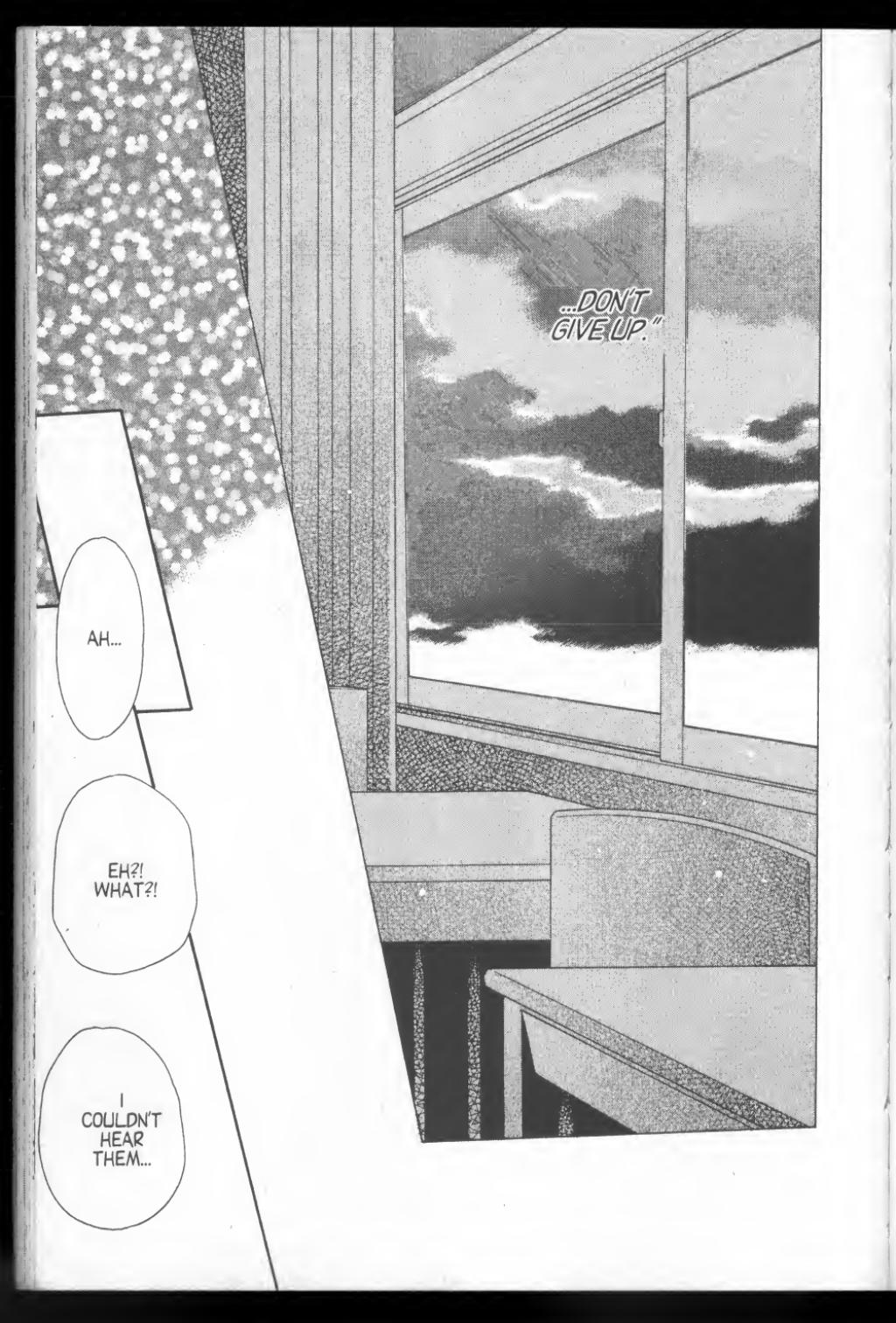
"I WILL
PRAY."

...THAT
THERE'S NOT
ONE PERSON
OUT THERE...

"I WILL
PRAY..."

...WHO
WOULDN'T
LOVE SAKI!"

...SO...



...DON'T
GIVE UP."

AH...

EH?!
WHAT?!

I
COULDN'T
HEAR
THEM...



I HOPE
SOMEDAY,
I CAN
APOLOGIZE.

HOW LONG
ARE YOU
GOING
TO KEEP
WEARING
BLACK...?

SAKI?

OBABA
TOLD ME...

...THAT THE
BOY IS DOING
WELL.

THEY
WOULD,
WON'T
THEY...?

AT THIS POINT,
IF EITHER OF US
WORE YELLOW OR
PINK, THE WHOLE
TOWN WOULD BE
IN AN UPROAR...

But an uproar
would be
interesting ...

That's
cute!
BON!

THAT DOESN'T
MEAN YOU HAVE
TO KEEP WEARING
BLACK WITH ME,
MEGUMI...

I'VE BEEN WEARING IT
FOR SO LONG, I DON'T
FEEL COMFORTABLE
UNLESS I'M WEARING
THIS COLOR.

I FEEL MOST
CALM IN THIS
COLOR, TOO...

That's
a lot of
black!

BON!

She's
cute, but
so much
black!



AND...

...ALL
THAT
PARENTS
WANT...

...IS FOR
THEIR
CHILDREN
TO BE
HAPPY.

THAT'S
REALLY
ALL THAT
MATTERS.

...ALL ANY-
ONE REALLY
WANTS...

...IS TO BE
ACCEPTED BY
OTHERS.

I'M SURE
OF IT.

WHENEVER I
START TO FEEL
THAT WAY, I
THINK OF WHAT
KYOKO SAID-

HUMAN BEINGS...

...CAN'T
HELP BUT
WANT OTHER
PEOPLE.

PROBABLY

PROBABLY...NO
MATTER HOW
MISERABLE THEIR
SITUATION...

...OR HOW
MUCH THEY'RE
LOVED
BY THEIR
FAMILY...

...BECAUSE
THESE ARE
THE KIND OF
BONDS...

...THAT NEVER
GO AWAY.

SO
SOMEDAY,
WHEN YOU
GIRLS ARE
OLDER ...

EVEN IF
YOU START
TO TAKE
DIFFERENT
PATHS...

...YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE
TO FEEL...

...LONELY OR
UNLOVED...

Chapter 52





BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

Have you noticed how Kyo is steadily growing taller?
Yuki, too. A lot of readers have noticed this, right?





Fruits Basket 9
Part 5:

This time I'm back to video games. I've finished the PC version of *Harukanaru Toki no Nakade 2*, but I also bought the PS2 version and am playing through that. I really do seem to like this game (laugh). I'm also enjoying playing RPGs as usual, but I'm very hooked on the adventure game *ICO*. Silent kindness, silent loneliness, being so close and yet so far...um, I can't really explain it (laugh). It's a great game. I highly recommend it. As long as I'm recommending things, the *Resident Evil* remake for the GameCube brought back a lot of memories!



SHISHOU!
WHAT ARE
YOU BURNING
THIS TIME?!

EH?



CRASH
BANG

THE STEW...
AAAAH, YOU
EVEN RUINED
THE FISH!

SINCE TOHRSAN'S COME
ALL THIS WAY,
I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE NICE
IF I COOKED
FOR HER.

BURN IT!

IT'S
SHIGURE-
KUN'S NEW
BOOK.

CRASH

STOP
READING BOOKS
WHILE YOU'RE
COOKING! HOW
MANY TIMES
DO I--FIRE!!

Put out the fire!

*Book Title: In the Moonlight

IT'S WONDERFUL
THAT YOU SEEM
TO BE DOING
WELL, TOO,
SHISHOU-SAN!

Yes!

HAVE YOU
BEEN DOING
WELL?

IT HAS BEEN
A LONG TIME,
HASN'T IT...

...TOHRU-
SAN?

Gone...

YES, IT'S
GONE.

WHY'D YOU
BOTHER
TRYING?

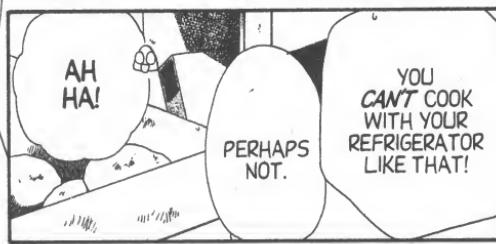
EVEN WHEN
YOU DON'T
BURN IT,
YOU'RE
COOKING
ISN'T VERY
GOOD.

SO YOU
REALLY DID
CUT YOUR
PONYTAIL OFF.

No...
it
wasn't
...

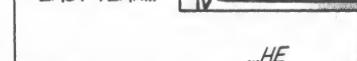
I'M SORRY
THAT YOU
HAD TO
SEE THAT
SHAMEFUL
SCENE.



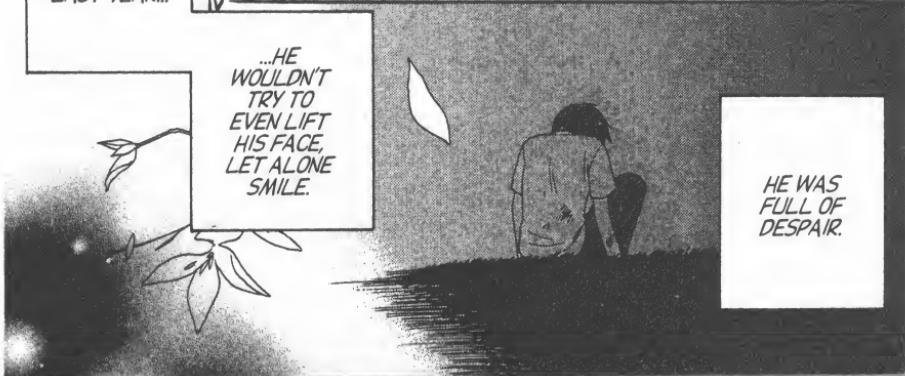








...HE
WOULDN'T
TRY TO
EVEN LIFT
HIS FACE
LET ALONE
SMILE.





HE WAS FILLED
WITH NOTHING
BUT THE SCENT
OF DARKNESS...

...THAT
RESEMBLED
DEATH.









KUUU-
NII-MIIIT-
SUUU...

I'VE KNOWN
KYO SINCE
HE WAS
LITTLE.

LIKE THIS ONE
TIME, WHEN HE
CRIED BECAUSE
HE WAS SCARED
OF THE STAIN IN
THE KITCHEN...

SO EVEN
KYO-KUN GOT
SCARED AND
CRIED WHEN
HE WAS
LITTLE!

SHISHOU AND
KUNIMITSU
TALK TOO
MUCH!

What the
hell?
Something
like that
happened to
me, too!

DON'T TELL
HER STUFF
SHE DOESNT
NEED TO
KNOW!

GO AWAY!
GET LOST!!

RIGHT, RIGHT.
THE THIRD
WHEEL IS
LEAVING.

OF
COURSE
I DID...

Ah!
Dammit,
making me
look bad.

MIGHT
THIS BE THE
STAIN HE
WAS TALKING
ABOUT?

AAH?!

* Oya-baka = parent stupid, ko-baka = child stupid. In Japan it is frowned upon to publicly compliment members of your family or even acquaintances with them there. It's extremely very embarrassing for the person being complimented. The term oya-baka refers to a parent who foolishly goes on and on about their child's accomplishments, and "ko-baka" would be a child who goes on and on about their parent.





Hey!

ENOUGH
SLACKING!
LET'S MAKE
LUNCH!

HYAU!

110
smack

THE
PREVIOUS
CAT...

...WAS
YOUR GRAND-
FATHER.

...CHANGE
THE FUTURE?

I'VE NEVER
MADE A SOUND
LIKE THAT
BEFORE. IT
WAS PRETTY
FUNNY.

Wasn't it?

WANNA
HEAR IT
AGAIN?

OTTO

YOU SHOULD
UNDERSTAND
BETTER THAN
ANYONE.

WILL I BE
ABLE TO...

N-NO,
HEAVEN
FORBID!



KYO IS BEING
GIVEN AN
EXTRAORDINARY
AMOUNT OF
FREEDOM...

...BUT THAT
WILL END
WHEN HE
GRADUATES
HIGH SCHOOL.

THE CAT
NEEDS TO BE
CONFINED.



...HE HAS TO LIVE
IN THE MAIN
HOUSE... IN THAT
DEEP, DARK ROOM
JUST FOR HIM.

AFTER
THAT, FOR
HIS ENTIRE
LIFE...

...UNTIL HE
DIES...



WE CAN'T
LET HIM
GET AWAY!

KAZUMA-DONO...
WHEN THE
TIME COMES,
WE NEED YOUR
COOPERATION.

HE WON'T BE
ALLOWED
OUTSIDE
ANYMORE.

LIKE YOUR
GRANDFATHER,
HE WON'T EVEN
BE ALLOWED TO
MARRY. ALONE
HIS WHOLE LIFE,
AS THE CAT
DESERVES.

THAT
THING IS A
MONSTER!!

WHEN I THINK OF
THAT THING LIVING
OUTSIDE AS IT DOES
NOW, I GET ANXIOUS.
THAT THING...

A MONSTER
WHO IT'S
PRACTICALLY
A FACT KILLED
HIS OWN
MOTHER...
WHO KILLED
MY WIFE!!

WHY IS
SUCH A THING
ALLOWED
TO LIVE?!

WHY?!

B-BUT
THAT THING
DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE
A SHRED OF
GUILT.

...IT KILLED MY
WIFE...AND...
ALL THE PAIN
I'VE HAD TO
ENDURE.

EVEN
SO...

...IT'S
A LITTLE
EARLY TO BE
DISCUSSING
THIS.

HE STILL
HAS ANOTHER
YEAR BEFORE
GRADUATION-

JOLT!

I'M
ANXIOUS!!

I'LL...I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE IT.
MY WIFE...

YOU
RESEMBLE
HIM.

IT'S THAT
THING'S
FAULT...
AND YET...

IT'S THAT
THING'S FAULT
EVERYTHING
FELL APART.

IT'S ALL
THAT
THING'S
FAULT.

BUT THAT
BOY...

UNABLE TO
BEAR HIS
ANXIETIES
AND FEARS...

JUST A
LITTLE, YOU
RESEMBLE...

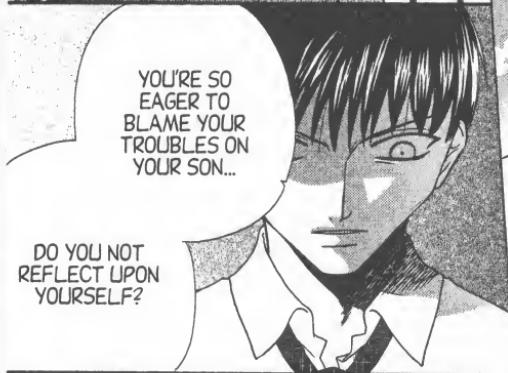
...IS
CHANGING.

...HE WOULD
STOP HIS
EARS AND
CLOSE HIS
EYES...

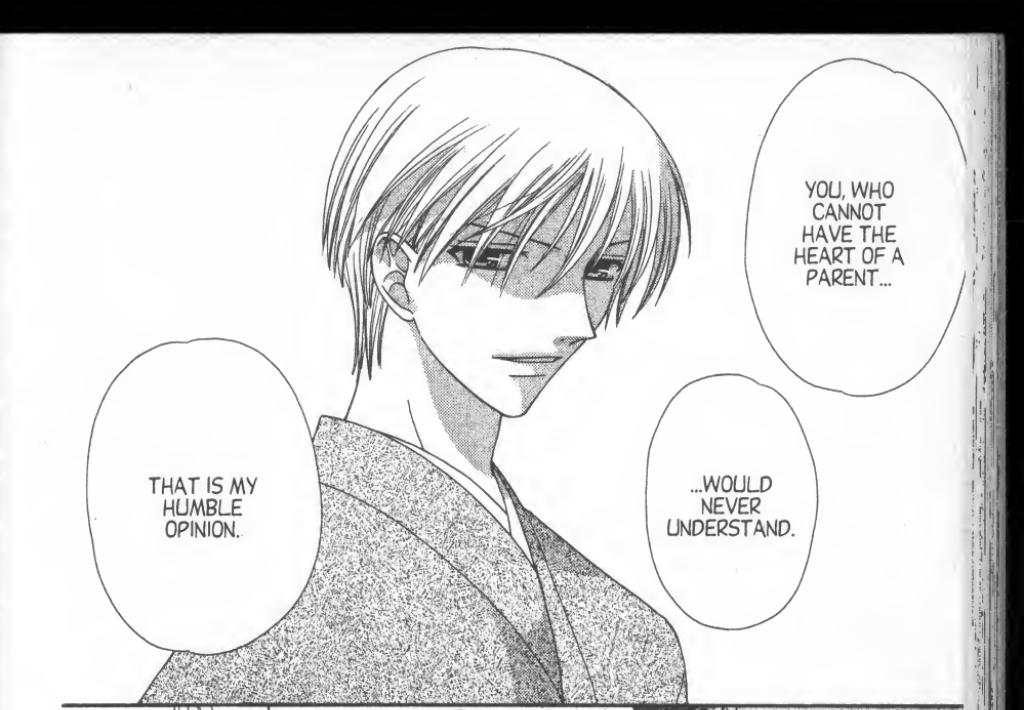
HE HAS
FINALLY...

...AND
FORCE
THEM ONTO
OTHER
PEOPLE.

...THE
OLD KYO.



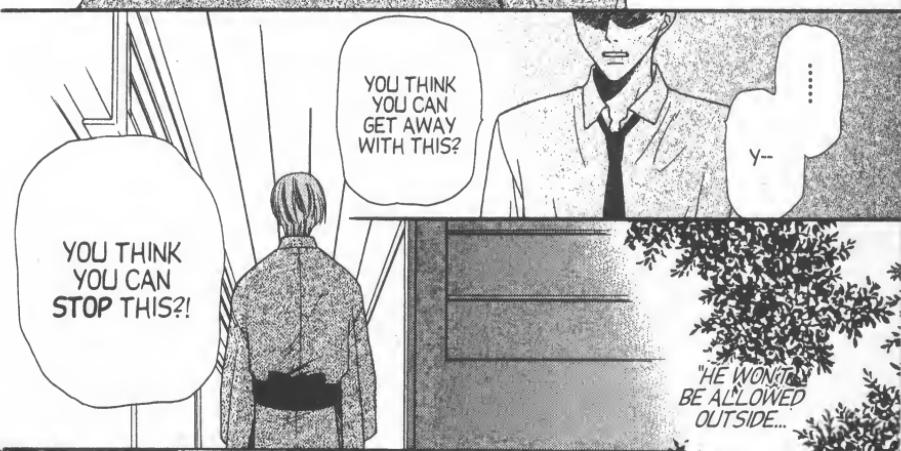




YOU, WHO
CANNOT
HAVE THE
HEART OF A
PARENT...

THAT IS MY
HUMBLE
OPINION.

...WOULD
NEVER
UNDERSTAND.



I DON'T
MAKE HIM
STAND IN
THAT
DARKNESS

...EVER
AGAIN.

I SAID...

I HATE THE
OCEAN AND
SWIMMING
POOLS!

I'd get
wet.

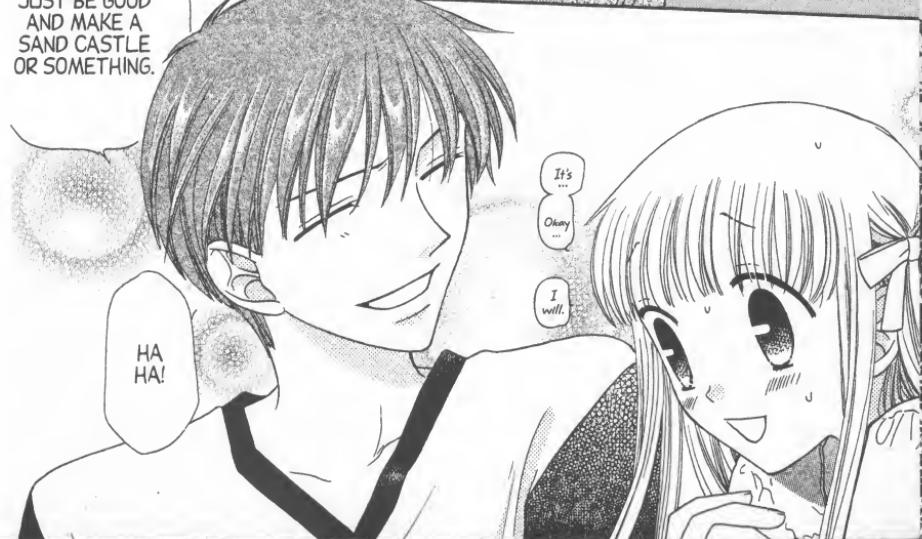
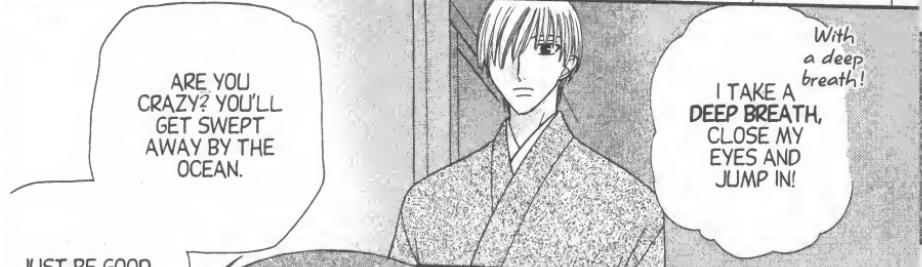
KYO HIMSELF
PROBABLY
REALIZES THE
FUTURE THAT
HAS BEEN
PREPARED
FOR HIM.

I HAVE NO
DESIRE TO
SEND HIM BACK.

THE
SCENT OF
DARKNESS
I FELT
BACK
THEN...

...IS HERE,
AMONG THE
SOHMA, AS
WELL.

THEIR HEARTS
STAGNATE
OPPRESSIVELY.





I WILL
PROTECT
YOU.

BUT
NOW THAT
I'M BACK, IS
THE CURRY
READY?

YES!
THAT'S
WHY WE
WERE
WAITING!



WELL THEN,
SHALL WE
EAT LUNCH?

WHAT?

?

I WILL
PROTECT
YOU.

BUT
NOW THAT
I'M BACK, IS
THE CURRY
READY?

YES!
THAT'S
WHY WE
WERE
WAITING!



WELL THEN,
SHALL WE
EAT LUNCH?

WHAT?

?



Chapter 53



NOT BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

The clothes Momitchi wears starting on the next page were designed by Mari Hidaka*-sensei. She sent me a fax that she drew of Momitchi that was *sooo cute* that I melted, so I got permission to let him actually wear the clothes in the manga. The original fax is actually much cuter. Long sleeves and boots... I'm sorry... It's the best I could do!

Anyway, very many thanks, Hidaka-sensei.

*manga-ka of the series VB Rose.

GET READY
FOR SOME VA-
VA-VOOM!!

TOMORROW,
WE SET
OUT WITH
A BOOM!!

WE ALL
PROMISED
THAT WE'D GO
OUT AND DO
SOMETHING
TOGETHER!

AND WHAT
IS THIS "VA-
VA-VOOM"
NONSENSE?

WHAT ARE
YOU UP TO,
BARGING IN HERE
WITH TALK OF
"SETTING OUT"?

Eeeh ?!

TOMORROW?!
SUMMER
HOME?! HISHO,
YOU SAY?!







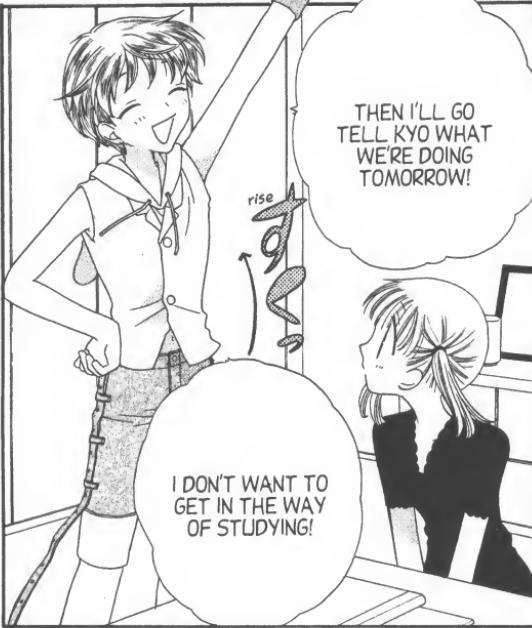


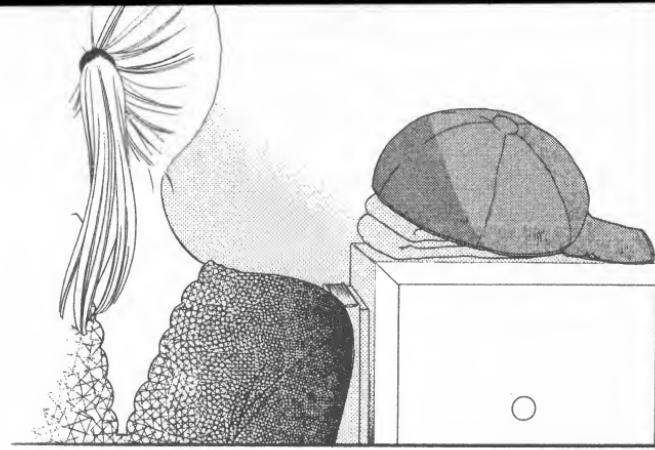
!!アアア...



Yuki and Morniji finished early.







Fruits Basket 9
Part 6

The "Rain Shelter of Terror" that starts on page 181 is something I drew for the Fruits Basket Special Edition Magazine.

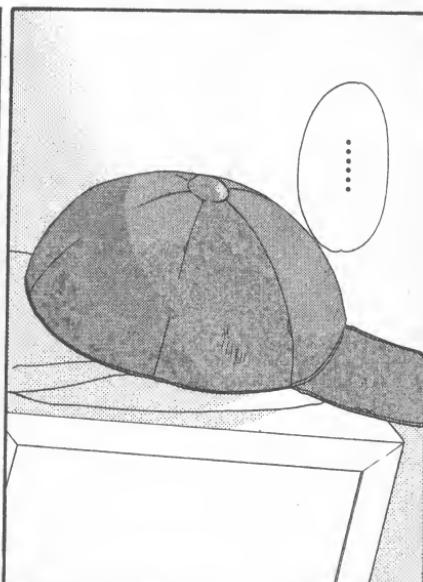
It was a wonderful publication that even had interviews with the anime voice actors! (By the way, they're not selling it anymore.) The drawings were the first I'd done in a year after my recovery, so you can see in them how happy I was to be able to draw. That's how I see them.

WE'RE GOING ON A TRIP TOMORROW, SO GET READY, OKAY!!













I DON'T
KNOW WHO
OR WHERE
HE IS...

...AND
I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
LOOKED LIKE.

WHY DID YOU
KEEP IT? IT'S
SO... WORN OUT.

*My memory
is hazy.*



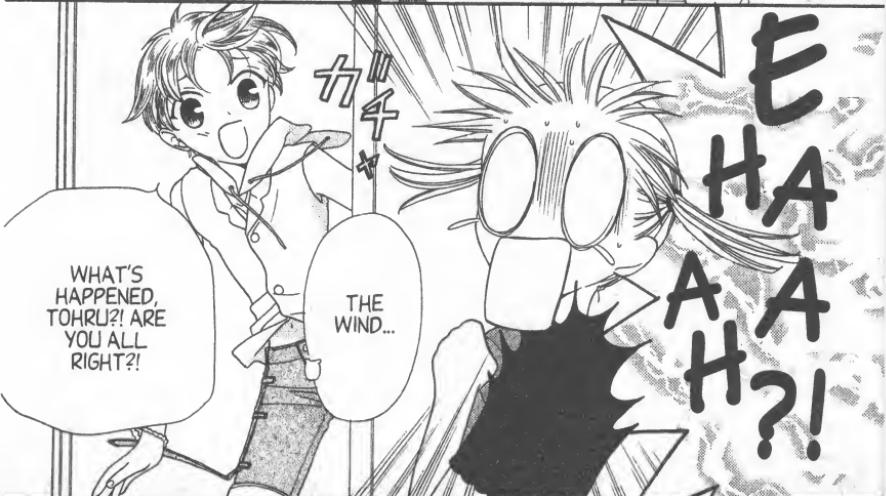
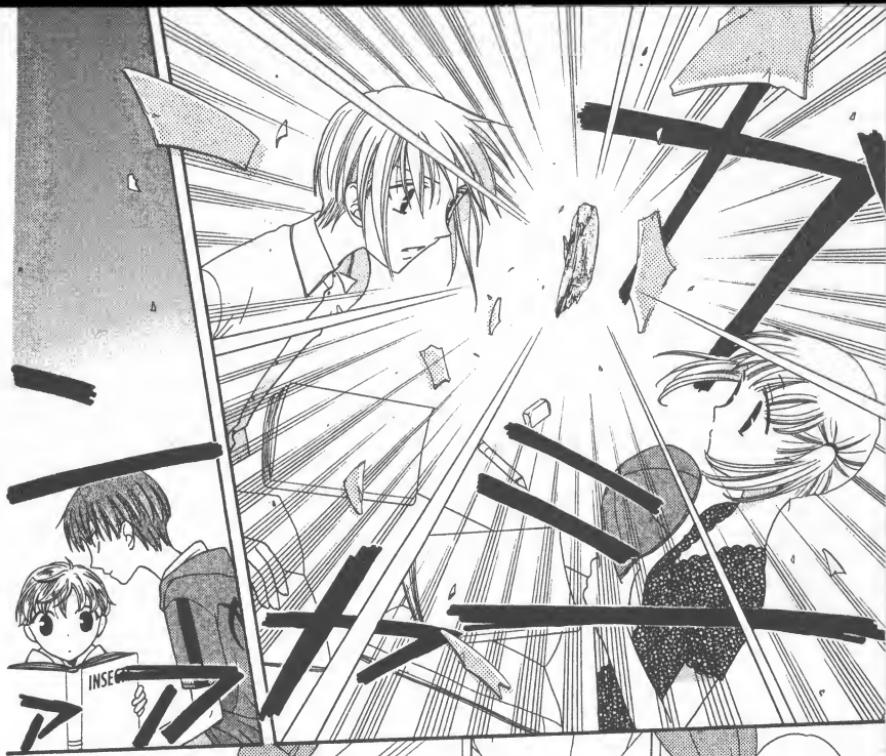
BECAUSE IT'S
A PRECIOUS
MEMORY.

...THAT HE
HELPED ME.

BECAUSE
I REALLY
WAS...

...VERY
HAPPY...





TH-TH-THE
GLASS! THE
GLASS!

WE KNOW.
CALM
DOWN.

YOU'RE
NOT HURT,
ARE YOU?

FOR NOW,
WE HAVE
TO CLOSE
THIS UP.

IT'S
DANGEROUS,
HONDA-SAN.
YOU SHOULD
WAIT OUT-
SIDE.

ST-
STOP
...?

STOP, O
MIGHTY
WIND! I
COMMAND
YOU!

I-I-I'm
all right!
I'll
help!

YOU MORON.
YOU THINK
THAT WOULD
STOP IT?!







FOR YOUR
INFORMATION...



...I WASN'T
THE ONE...

...WHO
BROKE THE
GLASS.



I KNOW.



LONG TIME
NO SEE.

RIN.

OH, AND
CONGRATULATIONS
ON LEAVING THE
HOSPITAL...





OR IS THAT
FOOLISHNESS
PART OF
YOUR PLAN?

NOW THEN...

SO, WHAT?

ARE
YOU JUST
STUPID?

HOW SHALL
WE BEGIN?





WHAT WILL
HAPPEN...

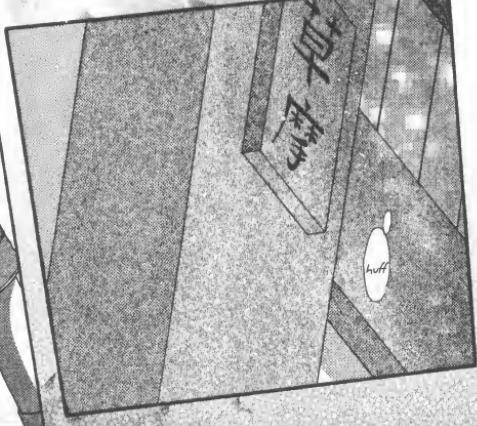
"BECAUSE IT'S
A PRECIOUS
MEMORY."

...WHEN
I OPEN...



...THE
CLOSED
LID?

*Nameplate: Sohma





WHAT
WILL BE
GAINED?

WHAT
WILL BE
LOST?

To Be Continued in Volume 10...

RAIN SHELTER OF TERROR



jitter
joy
jitter
joy
jitter
joy

YOU KNOW!
I READ AN
INTERESTING
SCARY BOOK!

SUMMER'S BEST
FOR TELLING
BLOOD-BURGLING
SCARY STORIES!

YOU
MEAN
BLOOD-
GIRDLING.

WILL
YOU TWO
SHUT UP?!

You're both saying
it wrong!

LET'S
TELL
SCARY
STORIES!!

HYAH
?!


I DON'T
MIND...

BUT ISN'T
THERE SOME-
ONE HERE WHO
DOESN'T LIKE
THEM?

Eh?
No it
isn't.
WILL YOU
LISTEN,
YUKI?

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
SOME SCARY
STORIES?

IT'S THE
PERFECT
WAY TO
KILL TIME.







WAS HE
PLANNING
THIS ALL
ALONG...?

YOU'RE
TELLING
IT?!

IT WAS A
SWELTERING
SUMMER
AFTERNOON...

OKAY THEN,
LET'S START!

HE
GAZED...

HE GAZED
INTO THE
GLASS FROM
WHICH HE
HAD JUST
DRUNK.

UNABLE TO
EVEN AVERT
HIS EYES, HIS
ENTIRE BODY
WAS AS RIGID
AS STONE.

FOR
THERE,
SITTING
IN THE
GLASS...

BUT AS HE
REACHED THE
BOTTOM, HIS
BODY FROZE.



DYING OF
THIRST, HE WENT
TO THE
KITCHEN.

HE FOUNDS
A CUP OF
ICED COFFEE
THAT LOOKED
AS IF IT HAD
JUST BEEN
PREPARED.



HE REALIZED
THE TERRIFYING
DEED HE
HAD JUST
PERFORMED.



THINKING
IT A
BLESSING
FROM
HEAVEN,
HE DRANK IT
ALL IN ONE
LONG SIP.

GLU



...WAS A
SINGLE BLACK
COCKROACH!





Next time in...

Fruits Basket

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



10

Katsuji Takaya

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Dog Days of Summer...

Tohru and the Sohma's are spending time at the Sohma family's summer-house, but it's not all fun in the sun on this little trip. Akito pays a surprise visit, causing a commotion for the rest of the family. At the summer house. Shigure takes a trip down memory lane with an old friend, remembering the days when Hatori wasn't so aloof. Meanwhile, Tohru starts thinking--what must life be like for the parents and lovers of a cursed member of the Sohma family? Can life with this family truly be happy while bearing such a burden?

Fruits Basket Volume 10
Available July 2005

Slithery Narcissism

Snake

Years: 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025, 2037

Qualities: Romantic, Clever, Discreet, Refined, Intelligent

Grievances: Vain, Procrastinator, Hot-Tempered

Suitable Jobs: Teacher, Philosopher, Writer, Psychiatrist, Fortune Teller

Compatible With: Ox, Rooster

Must Avoid: Boar

Ruling Hours: 9 AM to 11 AM

Season: Spring

Ruling Month: May

Sign Direction: South-Southwest

Fixed Element: Fire

Corresponding Western Sign: Taurus

Throughout the ages, Snakes have gotten the short end of the stick and made out to be villains like the Great Kaa in *The Jungle Book* or the fabled serpent in the Garden of Eden. However, the Chinese Zodiac sees any negative traits in the Snake as it would any of the other animal's dual natures--as yin and yang.

A person born in the Year of the Snake is endowed with great wisdom and even greater beauty. Like Ayame Sohma, fellow Snakes are very sure of themselves, but also incredibly vain and they like to flaunt what they have. Money comes easily for a Snake, but try to get a Snake to loan a friend a few bucks and their stingy nature rears its ugly head. The key to getting Snakes to crack open their wallet is to catch their sympathy. If they see someone that is in need or less fortunate than they are, then they collapse like a house of cards.

Snakes tend to overdo it when it comes to their jobs and prefer to control rather than lead. This is mainly due to Snakes always striving for the

Year of the Snake:



limelight. Though heartless at times, Snakes choose their words very carefully and speak them in a listless, yet cautious manner. Depending on the situation and the amount of pressure placed upon them, Snakes will either try to lighten up an atmosphere with jokes or emit an icy exterior to stare down the grim tidings.

Women born under this sign are very quiet and serene individuals, but mainly because they prefer to let their appearance do the talking. Female Snakes prefer to dress to impress and only wear the finest in clothing and jewelry. Friends are also chosen with a Snake's own self as the key frame of reference as they prefer to gravitate towards those who are like-minded and trustworthy. Best of all, relationships with Snakes are always filled with passion and romance.

Celebrity Snakes:
James Van Der Beek
Kim Basinger
Björk
Sarah Michelle Gellar
Ludacris
Chris Martin
John Mayer
Tom Welling

* Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1989 actually began on February 11, so anyone born before that date is actually a Dragon.